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No. 4

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

Amen.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign God, these times are in Your hands. Incline Your ear to us and hear our prayers for our Congress, for our Nation, for its people.

As compatriots, we are too often separated by politics and perspectives, individual certainties, and intractable opinions.

On this anniversary of national discord and despair, send Your healing Spirit among us and tend to the dispiritedness and disagreement here within and around the people's House.

This day, into Your hands we commend our spirits of fear, anger, and uncertainty and ask that You would revive in us our shared commitment to this country's highest ideals, its strength in its diversity, and its power in its defense of the common good.

On these virtues was our country founded and for them countless heroes have sacrificed. Remind us, inspire us—the aggrieved, the skeptical, the disenfranchised, all of us—to hold true and remain worthy of this noble heritage.

We offer the words of Abraham Lincoln that once again we would emerge from our national turmoil:

With malice toward none and charity for all, with firmness in the right, as You give us to see the right; to finish the work we are in, to bind up the Nation's wounds; to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves.

Merciful God, restore to us this sacred obligation of unity and moral purpose. Inspire us to live lives which serve as a witness to Your restoration and reconciliation.

We pray Your peace over Your people.

In Your sovereign name we pray.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCGOVERN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to Section 4(a) of House Resolution 829, no organizational or legislative business will be conducted on this day.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will address the Chamber.

Today, one year ago, the Capitol and those who work in it were targeted in a violent insurrection that sought to undermine democracy.

As we acknowledge the horror of that day, we honor the heroism of so many, particularly the U.S. Capitol Police; and the institutional staff; floor, leadership, committee, and Member staff.

We had a session this morning where we could say thank you to many of them. Unfortunately, COVID did not enable us to have the full House. We will have another time when the attending physician allows.

As we acknowledge the horror of that day, in the face of extreme danger, they all risked their safety for our de-

mocracy by protecting the Capitol complex, Members, staff, and press within; safeguarding the ballots in those mahogany boxes to validate the election; and ensuring that Congress could accomplish our purpose and honor our duty to the Constitution and to our country.

That day, and in the days after, they were the defenders of our democracy, and their courage and patriotism remain an inspiration. Because of them, Congress was able to defeat the insurrection and return to the Capitol that same night to ensure that the peaceful transfer of power took place. Because of them and our Members, the insurrection failed.

One year ago, this sacred space—where Members legislate, children learn, and visitors are welcomed—was defiled and damaged.

As we reflect on that darkest day, we remember that the insurrectionists sought not only to attack the building but to undermine democracy itself.

When the violent assault was made on the Capitol, its purpose was to thwart Congress' constitutional duty to validate the electoral count and to ensure the peaceful transfer of power.

But the assault did not deter us from our duty. In this Capitol, a symbol of democracy to the world, that evening, because of the courage of all of you, the Congress rose to honor our oath and to protect our democracy.

We did so honoring the words of President Lincoln during the Civil War:

Fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history. We . . . will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance, or insignificance, can spare one or another of us.

We hold the power; therefore, we bear the responsibility.

Today, we accept a responsibility as daunting and demanding as any that previous generations of leadership have faced.

Since the January 6 insurrection, there have been continued assaults on

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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